

When you write a **personal response to literature**, or when you **critique** or **evaluate** a piece of writing, you share your thoughts and feelings about the **value or worth of a text** you have read. As reading specialist Louise Rosenblatt says, “A personal response communicates something about the feelings, sensations, images, and ideas a reader weaves between herself [or himself] and a text.”

PLAN your response by answering the following questions **thoroughly** and **thoughtfully** on **YOUR OWN PAPER**:

1. Make sure you have a bibliography for this novel (the title will be *italicized* in your typed copy; underlined when it's handwritten).
2. What is the novel about? (**Summarize** the text in a few sentences, and think BIG PICTURE—THEME.)
3. What did you like about this novel? **Why** did you like it? **BE SPECIFIC!**
4. What didn't you like about it? **Why** did you dislike it? **BE SPECIFIC!**
5. Which, if any, characters could you identify with? **BE SPECIFIC!**
6. Whether you actually liked it or not, what was the most challenging part of the story for you to understand?
7. If you were the teacher, would you teach this story again next year? Explain.
8. What feeling comes to mind when you think of this piece of writing?
9. Any other comments you would like to make about the story?

After reading through your planning, decide on a **FOCUS** for your personal response (literary critique). Do you want to **EXPLORE ONE OR MORE OF THE QUESTIONS** you have about the text or **SHARE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT IT**? Simply stating that something was “good” or “bad” is not enough. You need to support your feelings with thoughtful explanations and **specific references** to the book itself. Remember that you need a **controlling statement**, great **support**, **organized paragraphs**, varied **sentence structure**, strong **word choice**, and **mechanically correct** writing as well as a **voice** that is your own and shows ownership of this critique! This is challenging to do when you must write in an academic voice – third-person. You can do this!

Do NOT just list all of the answers to the questions above in paragraph form, and then try to pass that off as an **ESSAY!**

Your literary critique for *To Kill a Mockingbird* is due **FRIDAY, APRIL 4**,
and will be evaluated using the informational writing rubric.
It is important for you to turn this paper in so that you **receive feedback**
prior to writing your Q4 poetry literary critique!